SPORT

The Daily Star

Doping at Sino sports school

AFP, Beijing

Teachers at an athletics school in China have been caught injecting teenagers with performanceboosting drugs in a scandal that has caused fury in Beijing ahead of the 2008 Olympics, state media said.

China's sports administration has accused the school of "collective doping" after the teachers were caught injecting the students with testosterone and other banned substances, Xinhua news agency and other reports said.

A large of amount of drugs including testosterone, a growth hormone often used to build muscle strength, as well as syringes were also found in the office of the school's headmaster. Xinhua said in a report late on Wednesday.

Appalling evidence of collective doping was found," Xinhua said. with the news carried in major newspapers and state-run television on Thursday

The State General Administration of Sport said the drug cheating was the second such case in the northeast province of Liaoning, regarded as China's sporting heartland, in the past four years

"(This case) is even more serious because it happened after the promulgation of China's anti-doping code (in 2004) and it happened as the 2008 Olympics is closing in," the administration said in a statement carried by Xinhua.

The management of the school not only defied the law but also put the youths' health in great danger."

Authorities made the discovery after raiding a camp run by the athletics school on August 8, exactly two years before the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics.

There was no mention of how many students were enrolled at the Liaoning Anshan Athletics School, or how many children had been taking the drugs.

Pakistan to wait for Madugalle

REUTERS, Karachi

Pakistan have dropped their plan to ask the International Cricket Council (ICC) to hold a disciplinary hearing before Monday into captain Inzamamul Haq's actions in the fourth and final Test against England.

Team manager Zaheer Abbas said that after lengthy consultations it had been decided Pakistan would wait until after the one-day series ended on September 10 for the hearing to take place.

"There was an opinion we should ask the ICC to have the hearing before the one-day series to close this issue but since both boards have agreed on having



Russia's Galina Voskoboeva hits a forehand return to world number one Amelie Mauresmo of France during their second round match at the Pilot Pen Tennis tournament at the Connecticut Tennis center on Wednesday.

Right start for Justine

In other matches, defending

The 30-year-old Davenport

ruthlessly disposed of Italian

Francesca Schiavone 6-4, 6-2 while

the 27-year-old Frenchwoman came

from behind to post a 4-6, 6-1, 6-2

a total different player.

right ankle sprain.

Galina Voskoboeva

her," Davenport said.

wrong.

Tennis

AFP. New Haven

Belgium's Justine Henin-Hardenne returned from injury and began her bid for her first New Haven title here in Connecticut on Wednesday with a champion Lindsay Davenport set up a quarterfinal clash with World No.1 straight sets win over Spains Anabel Medina Garrigues. Amelie Mauresmo for a repeat of last The 24-year-old two-time French vears final

Open champion showed no signs of the knee injury that kept her out for more than a month, applying steady, unrelenting pressure onto her opponent and defeating Medina Garrigues 6-4, 6-2 in one hour and twenty-six minutes

> "It was a tough match," Henin-Hardenne said. "But it was good for me. Its exactly

the kind of match I could get some rhythm back. "I played very well on the important

points. I didn't have many ups and downs. My knee was feeling all right. "I need to work on a few more

things before the Open," added the third-ranked Belgian, who fired six aces and committed four double "I just have to play aggressive and

keep my intensity. When I do that, I'm

The diminutive Henin-Hardenne "It just works out that way,' said the is now slated to meet Italian lucky-11th-ranked three-time Grand Slam loser Mara Santangelo, who earned champion, on the comeback trail after her berth for the quarterfinals when missing most of the season due to a Chinas Li Na pulled out because of a back injury

"Each time I played against her, I tried to go for my shots, play deep. Obviously, she's now a totally different player having won Grand Slams. Shell have more confidence coming

Also on Wednesday, No.5 seed Nadia Petrova of Russia was the biggest casualty of the day, sent crashing by Frenchwoman Marion Bartoli 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 in a wildly fluctuating match

triumph over little-known Russian On the mens side, Australian Open runner-up Marcos Baghdatis "I've always loved playing against of Cyprus, seeded third, tumbled "I have a tremendous amount of out of the tournament, falling to respect for her. I was so happy when Swedens Robin Soderling 6-3, 6-7, she broke through and won those Slams. She proved the nay-sayers

Chilean Nicolas Massu farewelled Finlands Jarkko Nieminen, the No.4 The US veteran is 11-3 lifetime seed, and Russian second-seeded Nikolay Davydenko secured his against the Frenchwoman, having quarter final berth with a 6-4, 6-1 won 10 of their last encounters. The whitewash of Thailand's Paradorn rival dates back to the WTA Sydney Srichaphan.

Yet, she can't explain why her game matches up well against her

last time Mauresmo had beaten her

Federer up against unknown rival

final in 2000.

US OPEN US OPEN tournament, opens against second round. Romanian veteran Andrei Pavel of Young con who is seeder Young compatriot Andy Murray, who is seeded 17th. will be facing a Romania, but up-and-coming qualifier Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus would In the women's event top seed **AFP.** New York prove a tough hurdle for the 36-year-Amelie Mauresmo of France starts old former winner to pass in the against a yet-to-be-decided qualifier, Roger Federer will open the defence second but could face early on old nemesis Fourth-seeded David Nalbandian of his US Open crown by taking on Serena Williams who is unseeded of Argentina will take on German Wang Yeu-Tzuoo of Taiwan after a long stay on the sidelines due newcomer Michael Berrer, while third The world No.1 will be bidding to to injury. become only the third player in the seeded Croat Ivan Liubicic will get The younger of the Williams professional era to win three straight underway with a tough tie against sisters must first defeat Spain's titles at Flushing Meadows. The Spanish serve and volleyer Feliciano Lourdes Dominiquez Lino. Lopez. others were John McEnroe (1979-Second-seed Justine Henin-. Federer looks to have a reason-81) and Ivan Lendl (1985-87). Hardenne of Belgium, who lost to ably comfortable run into the last The Swiss star has never before Mauresmo in the Wimbledon final, is eight where he could meet topplayed the 21-year-old Wang, who is in the bottom half of the draw going ranked American and fifth seed ranked 109th in the world, and he up against Italy's Maria Elena James Blake who enjoys playing in looks set for a comfortable run into Camerin front of his hometown crowd. Third seed Maria Sharapova the second round If the seedings are confirmed. takes on Michaella Kraiicek of the Wednesday's draw was less kind Federer would meet Nalbandian in a Netherlands. the sister of former on his top rival and second seed repeat of last year's semi-finals while Wimbledon winner Richard, while Rafael Nadal. The 20-year-old Nadal, who has yet to get beyond the fourth seeded Russian Elena Spaniard was pitted against former third round in New York, would take Dementieva, a semi-finalist last year. finalist Mark Philippoussis. on Ljubicic. opens against Laura Granville of the The Australian had to accept a The men's draw also turned up an United States. wildcard into the event after slumping intriguing first round clash between The semifinals potentially are down the rankings due to injury, but fading British veterans Tim Henman Mauresmo against Sharanova and on his day and fully fit he can still be a and Greg Rusedski. The winner Henin-Hardenne against match for the best. would likely take on Federer in the Dementieva.

McGrath looks to 2009 Ashes

AFP, Sydney

Not content with making his international comeback in the upcoming Ashes series against England, Australian paceman Glenn McGrath has revealed he wants another crack at his old enemy in 2009

McGrath, 36, will be pushing 40 when the Ashes is contested in England in 2009 but said he saw no reason why he could not still be playing at the top level.

"I know a lot of guys who have got a lot fitter and stronger when they are 40 than what they were when they were 25," McGrath told reporters at Australia's "boot camp" in Queensland state, where the side are undergoing gruelling training as they prepare for the Ashes

"The older you get the more experienced you are so mentally you're a lot stronger. "As long as the body holds

together then to me you've got to be a better cricketer, and the body's feeling great, I'm training hard and everything is going well." McGrath is returning to international cricket for the first time since

January, when he stood down to support his wife Jane in fighting breast cancer He rejected the idea of retiring

after next year's World Cup, saying he felt fitter than ever. "As long as the desire and the

hunger are still there I'll play as long as I can," he said McGrath has 542 Test wickets. the record for a fast bowler, and said last month that he wanted to take the tally to at least 600.

Advani wins India's top award

AFP, New Delhi

Billiards and snooker star Panka Advani was awarded India's top sports prize, it was announced Wednesday.

Advani, 20, who won the world amateur snooker title in 2003, was selected to receive the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award for 2005 after claiming the world billiards title in

Malta last year. Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam will give the award to Advani at a ceremony on August 29. He will also hand over the Arjuna sports

award. Others to receive the Khel Ratna award in the past include cricket superstar Sachin Tendulkar, tennis ace Leander Paes, chess player Viswanathan Anand and trap shooting specialist Rajyavardhan Rathore.

made against them in the fourth Test

Raja dies on the pitch

Wasim's first-class career

spanned 20 years from 1967-68

WASIM RAJA

matches with 11,434 runs as an

wickets thanks to his quickish leg-

Cricket

AFP, London

Wasim Raja, the former Pakistan batsman who went on to become an International Cricket Council (ICC) match referee, died Wednesday while plaving for Surrey Over-50s at Marlow in Buckinghamshire, southern England, He was 54. tour of England for British-based satellite channel Sky.

"Wasim had a big heart attack on the field," a Surrey spokesman told the Cricinfo website. "He felt dizzy, and mentioned this to the slips, saying that he felt he had to go off. He was carried off but then col-

lapsed on the boundary.' Wasim, the brother of fellow Pakistan international Rameez Raia, was a left-handed middleorder batsman

He settled in England after studying at Durham University and marrying an Englishwoman.

Paying tribute, International Cricket Council president Percy Sonn said: "This news has left me deeply shocked and saddened and I would like to express my sincere condolences to Wasim's wife and family

"I did not know Wasim personally during which time he played 250 but what I do know is that the game has lost a great servant, a true attacking left-hander and 558 entertainer and someone who plaved with a flair that only a player with real talent can display.

breaks "The proof of that talent is there for all to see in the fact that his finest series was against the great West Indies side of the late 1970s, and ing matches in each of the first three anyone who made runs against that World Cups, in 1975, 1979 and line-up at that time could play.

"After he stopped playing at the 1983. elite level he remained involved through his role as an ICC match referee and we should all be grateful for the work Wasim did for the betterment of the game we all love."

Wasim came from a cricketing Barbados

family. His father, the late Saleem Wasim's highest Test score was Akhtar, and two younger brothers, achieved against India in Jullundur Zaeem and Rameez, all played in September 1983 when he scored first-class cricket. Rameez, ten 125 and in the same match he took years his junior, went on to captain four for 50, also his best innings Pakistan and served as the analysis. Pakistan Cricket Board chief execu-

In total, Wasim scored 2,821 Test runs and took 51 wickets, while in ODIs he scored 782 runs and Now a broadcaster, Rameez has been commentating on Pakistan's took 21 wickets

His role as an ICC match referee saw him officiate in 15 Tests and 34 ODIs between 2002 and 2004, including four matches in the 2002 ICC Champions Trophy in Sri Lanka and eight matches in the following years ICC Cricket World Cup in southern Africa.

Meanwhile, friends and colleagues of Wasim expressed shock at his sudden death.

"The news was shocking for me and he died as a cricketer while playing a match which showed his love for cricket," former Pakistan captain Javed Miandad told AFP.

"He was a natural cricketer, a very fine all-rounder and very few cricketers in the world have plaved so well against the West Indies like Wasim."

Pakistani television channels broadcast breaking news bulletins late Wednesday announcing his death, and newspapers splashed with the news on their front pages.

Former Pakistan captain Intikhab Alam said that he could not He made his international debut believe the news. in 1973 and went on to play at the

"He was a young man, a nice highest level for 12 years, appearfellow and played a lot of cricket ing in 57 Tests and 54 ODIs, includunder my captaincy," Alam said.

Pakistan Cricket Board director Saleem Altaf hailed Wasim as a gentleman and a fine cricketer.

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Hag -

on charges of ball-tampering and

bringing cricket into disrepute -- which

was initially scheduled to take place

because chosen match referee

Ranian Madugalle is unable to leave

Sri Lanka while he attends to a family

That meeting has been postponed

Pakistan are minded to wait for

While the furore over Inzamam's

Speed has left little doubt about

where the ICC stand on Hair.

His greatest achievement as a "We played together a lot and he player came during Pakistan's 1977 was one of my closest friends. I am tour of the West Indies where, deeply shocked by his tragic news. against the home side's legendary the Dawn newspaper quoted Altaf pace attack, he scored 517 runs, as saying. including an unbeaten 117 in

Pakistan firm against Hair

going to go away. "They have received a letter from

me. The obvious first knee-ierk reaction is that no country can dictate who is going to be umpire,' Shaharvar said

"But it has happened before, with the Sri Lankans. Hair was out for a year. We will say that once we give our reply -- probably much more than that

Hair, who has a sizeable list of Madugalle to become available -controversies already behind him in a reporting he is their "preferred" option significant career as a Test and oneand that he is also favoured by day international umpire, did indeed England. take a break from officiating in Sr Oval protest continues to rumble on,

Khan has resolved to pursue the Lanka matches. Hair's absence from those fixtures Pakistan consider Hair responsifollowed his decision to report Sri Lanka's master off-spinner Muttiah ble. over and above his umpiring

"It remains the role of the ICC and Muralidaran for a suspect bowling not our members to appoint umpires, action in 1995. he said. ICC chief executive Malcolm

"The appointments are made Speed is expected in England soon to without fear of favour."

Friday.

problem there.

authorities sideline umpire Darrell Hair for any matches in which they are involved

Cricket

A first bid by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to avoid Hair from now on fell on deaf ears with the International Cricket Council (ICC) Wednesdav But PCB chairman Shaharyar

AFP. Islamabad

said Thursday

pute.

matter colleague Billy Doctrove, for

Sunday's ball-tampering judgement For the second year running, no member of the men's cricket team against England at The Oval. was named for the Arjuna award. Air rifle expert Gagan Narang, badminton player Aparna Popat and field hockey player Viren Rasquinha made it clear the Hair issue is not were named in a 15-strong list.The Khel Ratna carries a cash prize of 500.000 rupees (11.450 dollars) and the Arjuna award 300,000 rupees (6,900 US dollars).

AFP, London Pakistan are pressing forward with their bid to make sure the cricket

Ranian Madugalle as the adjudica tor it has been decided to wait until he is available," Abbas told Reuters from London.

Earlier, a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) official said the PCB was willing to accept a replacement adjudicator to speed up the process after a postponement was caused by the enforced absence of ICC chief referee Madugalle.

"Madugalle's sister has had a serious accident and the reasons for postponing the hearing are genuine. Our legal advisers also felt it was best to wait." Abbas said

He added that Thursday's fixture against Middlesex would go ahead as planned.

"We are definitely playing that match and the remaining ones also. The players are now just concentrating on the cricket and winning the one-dayers."

Earlier, ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed said Friday's planned hearing had been postponed since Pakistan and England preferred Madugalle to act as adjudicator.

"The difficulty relates to the availability of Ranjan Madugalle to chair the hearing as he is dealing with a private and personal matter that requires his urgent attention." said Speed in a statement.

"Pakistan and England, as the host country, have both expressed a preference for Ranian to hear the case and on that basis we have agreed to the postponement.'

Abbas said the name of former West Indies captain Clive Lloyd had been discussed as a possible replacement for Madugalle.

The hearing was scheduled by the ICC after the ball tampering controversy at the Oval on the fourth day of the final Test on Sunday.

Inzamam and coach Bob Woolmer had suggested earlier this week that the tourists could refuse to play the one-day series if the captain was banned

Practice tie

FROM PAGE 21

They are also set to play five oneday internationals against England.

Thursday's match would have been the first time they had played since refusing to come out for the final session of The Oval Test on Sunday in protest against being accused of ball-tampering.

Andre Agassi, in his farewell

Woolmer staying put

ahead as scheduled.

would be unproven.

10 million pounds.

But Shahahrvar, who met with

ECB counterpart David Morgan on

Wednesday, said: "I've held meet-

ings with the Pakistan players and

captain. I've told them we don't have

any problems with the ECB so we

as soon as possible and we hope it's

"We want the inquiry to be held

must continue with the tour.

remained.

done fairly.

FROM PAGE 21

major rows within the Pakistan camp. "There may be a few emotions flaring up considering the current scenario but nothing serious.

The team were incensed by the decision of on-field umpires Darrell Hair and Billy Doctrove to award England five penalty runs on Sunday because they believed Pakistan had illegally altered the condition of the ball and refused to take the field in protest.

When they twice failed to come on after tea with the umpires it was ruled that Pakistan had forfeited the match --the first time this had happened in 129 years of Test cricket and England won the series 3-0.

Pakistan did turn up for their warm-up match against Middlesex at Uxbridge, west London, on Thursday but the game was abandoned because of rain.

They are now due to play England in a Twenty20 match at Bristol on Monday before the oneday series proper starts Wednesday in Cardiff.

The hearing delay was initially now they have realised the importance of playing," Shaharyar viewed as making it more likely the

five-match one-day series would go explained. "Our focus is now on cricket."

The ICC said it would be Pakistan's ire has been reserved extremely difficult to hold the hearfor veteran Australia official Hair. ing while the series was in progress This week Shaharyar wrote to ICC meaning the case against Inzamam requesting Hair be barred from standing in any few future Pakistan However, it soon became clear that Pakistan players were uncommatches.

fortable about proceeding with the This was initially rebuffed by ICC tour while question marks against chief executive Malcolm Speed. the conduct of their captain who said: "It remains the role of the ICC and not our members to appoint The estimated cost of cancelling umpires. The appointments are the one-day series to the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is made without fear of favour."

However, Shaharvar said: "The obvious first knee-jerk reaction is that no country can dictate who is going to be umpire.

"But it has happened before, with the Sri Lankans. Mr Hair was out for a year. We will say that once we give our reply -- probably much more than that."

Hair did take a break from offici-"The players did not want to play ating in Sri Lanka matches after nothe one-day series with the sword of balling off-spinner Muttiah the hearing hanging over them but Muralidaran for a suspect bowling action in 1995.

Cricket Germany sans

FROM PAGE 24 they both played in the second half Berlin's Arne Friedrich, normally

a right back, was shifted to central defence against Sweden and did a solid job. Both Manuel Friedrich and Fathi will again be in the squad for the

match against Ireland in Stuttgart. Germany then play on Sept 6 in Serravalle against San Marino in their next qualifier.

Wenger relieved FROM PAGE 24

up Flamini in stoppage time, the second time in five days that the youngster, who went to the World

Cup with England, has created a late goal following the 1-1 Premier League draw with Aston Villa. "He can make a difference with his penetrating power and speed,

said Wenger. "He had big support in the stadium but I am not sure he can start (a game) yet. "But I won't be able to leave him

out if he keeps setting up goals.

Keeper keeps SL FROM PAGE 21

the first-half 25-12 Bangladeshi player Bazlur Rashid was admitted to the local Javawardene Hospital after receiving injury in the ribs but he was later released.

The Indian women routed Bandladesh 66-20 to stake their claim for gold in the inaugural women's kabaddi competition at the Games.

SQUASH

Bangladesh came from a set down to beat Nepal 2-1 in squash men's team event. Swapan Parvez lost to Hira Thapa but Ram Jagdish and Bhola Lal outplayed Pun Chhabilal and Anil Singh to give Bangladesh their first victory after they had lost the league opener to Sri Lanka 3-0.

As the row continues to threaten the limited-overs leg of Pakistan's tour -- due to start with a Twenty20 match in Bristol on Monday -- Shaharyar

abandonment.

try and resolve the ongoing crisis Shaharyar sees Speed's arrival as following the unprecedented Oval Speed is likely to arrive before an

a very positive sign "We hope his coming here is likely to help the situation." he said.

ICC disciplinary hearing against

Father prays for Inzy

my son for the success of my son and for the glory of my nation during the Shab-e-Mairaj," he said, referring to a Muslim holy day. Inzamam has been at the centre of

The father of Pakistan cricket capa sporting firestorm since Pakistan refused to take to the pitch after tea in tain Inzamamul Hag is praving his son the fourth Test against England at the will be cleared when he faces a disci-Oval on Sunday. plinary hearing, a newspaper report Their protest was at umpire Darrell

Hair's decision to punish them for ball tampering. The Australian official shortly afterwards called the first forfeit in Test history.

An International Cricket Council disciplinary hearing into the charges against Inzamam was initially due on Friday but has been postponed because the chosen referee is attending to a family problem in Sri Lanka.

"After this bitter incident every time Inzamam has phoned me it has been the subject of the conversation." said the master batsman's father, who hails from the central city of Multan.

Howard bats

FROM PAGE 21

Melbourne Cricket Ground in 1995 labelling Murali a "chucker".

Pakistan has threatened to boycott its five-match one-day series in England if Inzamam is banned on charges of balltampering and bringing cricket into disrepute following the forfeit controversv.

Speed on peace mission

FROM PAGE 21 Despite the delay in Madugalle's arrival, the lack of a new date for the hearing and Speed's earlier comments, Pakistan were optimistic that Inzamam's case could be consid-

Ageing Intizamul Haq, a Muslim

spiritual leader, told the Urdu-

language Daily Express that his son

was innocent of charges of ball tam-

pering and bringing cricket into disre-

son successfully out of this crisis,"

quoted Inzamam's father as saying.

"I am hopeful that Allah will bring my

"I have made special pravers for

ered before the one-day series. And Shaharyar stressed Madugalle was the man they wanted in charge.

"Both England and Pakistan agree on Madugalle. We all know he is a very fair and seasoned referee. "Our preference is for him. If not I am sure we can agree someone else.

"If Madugalle -- a very experienced man -- can make it a few days later it is fine. That will preferably be before the one-day series.

"We are very, very keen that the one-dayers are not disrupted -- and I'm sure they won't be.'

Some reports Wednesday suggested Pakistan wanted former West Indies captain Clive Lloyd to stand in for Madugalle and chair a Monday hearing.

But this was contradicted by lawyers DLA Piper, the firm hired by Pakistan to help prepare their case "We want the original bloke."

said a DLA spokesman. "Clearly he has problems to deal with at the moment -- but the situation has not changed.

manager Zaheer Abbas was confident all remaining tour matches, starting with Thursday's warm-up match against Middlesex, would go ahead as planned.

"We are definitely playing that match and the remaining ones also," the Pakistan batting great told the BBC Sport wesbite.

"The plavers are now just concentrating on the cricket and winning the one-davers." It is estimated that the cost of a cancelled one-day series to the

ECB would be 10 million pounds (18.9 million dollars). The one-day series, which is preceded by a Twenty20 match at Bristol on Monday, has been in jeopardy ever since Pakistan threatened a withdrawal if Inzamam received a lengthy ban for his part in the events at The Oval.

Pakistan refused to come back on the field on Sunday in protest at the award of five penalty runs to

England by on-field umpires Darrel Hair and Billy Doctrove because of ball-tampering Meanwhile, Pakistan team Their subsequent forfeit was the first in the 129-year history of Test

cricket and saw England to a victory that gave them the four-match series 3-0

> Shaharyar wrote to the ICC asking them to bar Hair from officiating in any more Pakistan matches.

But, in an earlier statement Speed stressed that it was the responsibility of ICC, and not individual countries, to select match officials "without fear or favour."

And Hair, much criticised by the press in Britain, where he now lives, for his handling of events at The Oval, told the Independent newspaper: "I have been vilified by virtually everybody here and when the truth comes out a lot of people will pay."